

March 16, 1976

They work on a commission. I know some people who are in the process of doing these things. It's not always a pleasant condition under which to work. I'd like to ask Senator Goodrich, the mover, to answer a question or two if he will. Senator Goodrich, I've heard conversations this morning, not in any great detail, about lowering the standards for being a CPA. Do you think education.... When you're talking about a profession and you're trying to give the image to the public of this profession as being of high standards, great competency, qualification, capability, etc., do you think education is an essential part of the preparation for that profession?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes. It is an integral part.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Alright. What is the educational requirement for a CPA in Nebraska?

SENATOR GOODRICH: First of all he has to go through an accredited university with a bachelors ... for a bachelors degree, with a major in accounting. Then, after he's completed that, he then takes the five-part CPA Certificate Examination which takes him 2½ days.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Goodrich, where do you see the requirement that you finish an accredited university? I'm just curious.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Are you talking now about the personnel of the Revenue Department and the Auditors Department, or are you talking about the regular CPA Certificate?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Regular CPA Certificate.

SENATOR GOODRICH: OK. In the.... First of all any party applying for a certificate must be a resident of this state, or have a place of business herein.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OK.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Number two, he must have attained the age of 21. Number three, a good moral character. Then four, by the virtue of the bill is split into (a), (b), (c) and (d). (a) is who has had four years of public accounting experience satisfactory to the Board in any state and in practice as a certified public accountant or as a public accountant for any state, a combination, etc. provided that graduation from a college or university of recognized standing shall be considered to be the equivalent to two years of public accounting experience required by this section.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But, Senator Goodrich, it says that graduation is equivalent to two years of accounting, but where does it say that you must graduate in order to qualify for the certificate?

SENATOR GOODRICH: It doesn't.